

SEARCHING AND SORTING MEDIA CLIPS HAVING ASSOCIATED STYLE AND ATTRIBUTES

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A style identifier is associated with each of a plurality of media clips stored in
a database, based on a subjective evaluation of various characteristics of each media
clip by an expert. The style represented by the style identifier corresponds to an
impression on the expert regarding various qualities of the media clip and is not
constrained by the subject of the media clip. Media clips with which style identifiers
are associated can be any form of digital media, such as clip art files, sound files,
10 photographs, animation files, fonts, etc. Also associated with each media clip in the
database is an absolute ranking value for each of a plurality of different attributes
based on a subjective evaluation of each media clip by an expert. A user can search
the database for media clips associated with a specific style identifier and can sort the
media clips that were identified by a search, based upon the absolute ranking value
15 for a selected attribute. In one application of this invention, the database is
maintained at a web site accessible over the Internet, and users can browse or search
the database based upon a selected category, a keyword, or a style. The results of
browsing or searching the database can be selectively sorted in regard to a selected
attribute. Thus, with this invention, a user can more readily identify an appropriate
20 media clip that is suitable for an intended use.